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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2002

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Report Highlights:

Export prices remained unchanged as foreign buyers wait for production information. Higher than expected prices dampen exports.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1], TH

Indicative Price (Week Ending Dec 9):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	325	320	351	321	305	293	300	316	318
WR 100 B	191	190	189	188	187	188	186	188	189
PB 5%	186	190	188	191	193	196	183	190	190
WR 5%	186	185	184	184	182	183	182	184	184
WR 10%	182	180	182	181	179	180	177	180	180
WR 15%	179	178	178	179	176	177	173	177	177
WR 25%	177	173	174	172	170	170	169	172	172
WR 35%	172	171	172	169	167	167	165	169	169
A 1 SUP	156	160	155	157	154	156	156	156	157
A 1 SPEC	154	158	154	156	153	NQ	154	155	156
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grade of rices remained unchanged. Trade sources reported that foreign buyers are waiting for more information on the Thai production situation. The preliminary official estimate of paddy production in the Northeastern region showed a decline of about 10 percent, due mainly to flood reduced harvested area. Most of this production is fragrant rice. However, traders and local millers expect that the production would not decline significantly. The worst case scenario envisioned by many is that the production would be at the same level as the previous year. Note that flooding, in general, benefits many areas in the Northeastern region.

As for the Rice Trade Cooperation (RTC), official sources reported that there was a meeting among senior officers from Thailand, India, Vietnam, China, and Pakistan on Friday, December 6, 2002, after the official establishment of the International Council on Rice Trade Cooperation (CRTC) on October 9, 2002. The result of the meeting was mainly to create data exchange via internet which could benefit both buyers and sellers. However, news reports a day before the meeting indicated that Indian officials were reluctant to join the meeting as they might lose their only existing price competitiveness.

The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
NOV 2	134,240	151,084	5,044	5,815
NOV 9	124,720	142,441	5,168	6,192
NOV 16	94,590	125,120	5,263	6,269
NOV 23	119,804	118,339	5,383	6,557
NOV 30	108,846	111,990	5,492	6,724
DEC 7	51,418	93,665	5,543	6,903

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports for Dec 1-7, 2002, totaled 51,418 tons, down 57,428 tons from the previous week's total and down 42,247 tons from the four week moving average of 93,665 tons. This precipitous drop in exports can be linked to higher than expected new crop prices, Thai government intervention (stockpiling), and fewer trading days due to holidays at the end of Ramadan as well as in Thailand.

Exports during Jan 1- Dec 8, 2002, amounted to 5,543 million tons, compared with 6,903 million tons (including fragrant rice) during the same period in 2001.

Total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan - Nov 31, 2002, were 6,152,996 tons, down 8.3 percent from the corresponding period in 2001.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period Nov 18-22, Nov 25-29, and Dec 2-6, 2002 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Nov 18-22	Nov 25-29	Dec 2-6
weekly sales	97,397	53,326	97,430
4 week sum	414,903	358,153	340,865
4 week mov avg.	103,726	89,538	85,201
Total weekly sales	4,382,528	4,435,854	4,533,284